

Message Text

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63

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3824

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, US, UK

SUBJECT: ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 5021, (B) LONDON 9734

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED THE RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 4
WORKING GROUP MEETING WITH PETER GENT OF DTI, WHO
ATTENDED ON BEHALF OF THE UK.

2. GENT SAID THAT THE MEETING HAD A SOMEWHAT "POST-
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HOLIDAY" ATMOSPHERE, AND THERE WERE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN

MEMBER STATE POSITIONS. SOME "USEFUL PROGRESS" WAS NEVERTHELESS MADE. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE FRENCH, WITHDREW ON A PROVISIONAL BASIS THEIR RESERVATIONS ON VARIOUS ITEMS ON THE COMMISSION'S LIST. THE POSITION OF THE FRENCH DELEGATES WAS AMBIGUOUS, HOWEVER. WHILE THEY APPEARED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE ON SPECIFIC ITEMS, THEY ALSO INDICATED THAT FRANCE HAS NOT COMPLETELY DROPPED THE IDEA THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD MAKE BILATERAL CONCESSIONS TO SO-CALLED DEFICIT COUNTRIES INSTEAD OF AGREEING ON AN OVERALL LIST. GENT SAID THAT THE COMMISSION AND ALL THE OTHER MEMBER STATES ARE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO BILATERAL CONCESSIONS. HE ALSO SAID THAT HIJZEN, IN AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE US DEMARCHE, SAID THAT THIRD COUNTRIES WERE PRESSING ACTIVELY FOR AN AGREEMENT.

3. GENT DOUBTS THAT THE PERMREPS WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE MUCH PROGRESS ON ARTICLE XXIV:6 AT THEIR MEETING NEXT WEEK, SINCE A NUMBER OF DETAILED POINTS REMAIN TO BE SETTLED AT THE EXPERT LEVEL. THE WORKING GROUP INTENDS TO MEET AGAIN NEXT WEEK. GENT BELIEVES THERE IS A "FAIR CHANCE" THAT THE COUNCIL WILL BE ABLE TO AGREE ON AN OFFER AT ITS MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 20-21.

4. AS FOR THE BRITISH POSITION, GENT SAID THAT THE UK HAS MODIFIED ITS RESERVATION ON TRUCKS AND NON-AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS. INSTEAD OF MAINTAINING A GENERAL RESERVATION ON THESE TWO ITEMS, THE UK IS PROPOSING THAT TARIFF CONCESSIONS SHOULD BE OFFERED ON CERTAIN TYPES OF VEHICLES THAT FALL WITHIN THESE GENERAL CATEGORIES, BUT NOT ON OTHERS. GENT SAID THAT DTI CONSIDERED US INTERESTS CAREFULLY IN MAKING THIS DIFFERENTIATION, AND THE BRITISH ARE PROPOSING TARIFF CUTS ON ITEMS (FOR EXAMPLE, DUMP TRUCKS) WHICH THE US EXPORTS IN LARGE QUANTITY TO THE UK. FOR SOME VEHICLES, THE TARIFF CUTS PROPOSED BY THE UK GO CONSIDERABLY BEYOND THE REDUCTION TO 17 PERCENT PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION.

5. GENT SAID THAT THE UK IS CONTINUING TO PROPOSE (SEE REF B) THAT OUTBOARD MOTORS, ANTI-KNOCK COMPOUND AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDEVELOPED FILMS SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE COMMISSION'S LIST. AT THE SEPTEMBER 4 MEETING, THE UK ALSO PROPOSED THE ADDITION OF LARD AND HONEY AS ITEMS ON WHICH CONCESSIONS SHOULD BE MADE.

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